

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 /085 W

-----044994 261438Z /50

O 261347Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2571

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USXMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE 0663

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1975

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS BC

SUBJ: RHODESIA-BOTSWANA BORDER CLASH

1. EMBOFF QUERIED GOB ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY CHARLES TIBONE JUNE 26 ON SABC NEWS REPORT HEARD PERVIOUS EVENING THAT GOB OFFICIALS, ACTING ON INFORMATION FROM RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT, HAD STOPPED A ZIPRA GUERRILLA ATTACK ON RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES LAUNCHED FROM WITHIN BOTSWANA.

2. TIBONE RESPONDED THAT NEWS REPORT WAS ANOTHER SAG TWISTING OF FACT, THAT NO GUERRILLAS WERE INVOLVED ON BOTSWANA SIDE OF BORDER AND NO GOB OFFICIALS WENT TO AREA TO STOP HOSTILITIES.

3. ACCORDING TO TIBONE, BDF FORCE WENT TO AREA NEAR BORDER VILLAGE OF MATSILOJE (SOME 40 KM EAST OF FRANCISTOWN) ON JUNE 24 TO INVESTIGATE SOUNDS OF SHOOTING. AS A RESULT, FIREFIGHT DEVELOPED ACROSS BORDER BETWEEN BDF AND SECURITY FORCES. TIBONE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER INITIAL RHODESIAN

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SHOOTING WAS INTENDED TO LURE BDF INTO TRAP OR WHETHER RHODESIANS WERE ACTUALLY COMBATTING GUERRILLAS ON RHODESIAN TERRITORY. TIBONE SAID RHODESIANS USED AIRCRAFT TO BOMB THE AREA AND HOSTILITIES CONTINUE TO THIS TIME, WITH RHODESIANS SHELLING OF BDF POSITIONS REPORTED MORNING OF JUNE 26. NO CASUALTIES HAVE YET OCCURRED ACCORDING TO LAST REPORTS TIBONE SAID.

3. WILL ADVISE.
NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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